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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,204	04/11/2001	Tsutomu Wakabayashi	109239	1169

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EXAMINER

PARKER, KENNETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/832,204	Applicant(s) Wakabayashi et al
	Examiner Kenneth Parker	Art Unit 2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 17-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
17) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). <u>2,3</u>	20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6, 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 lacks any connection of the light guide members to the rest of the system.

Claim 13 lacks any connection of the lens or the transparent substrate to the rest of the components, the lens lacks anti

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 9, 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Margerum et al, U.S. Patent # 5,099,343 in view of Doane et al, US Patent 5,240,636.

Margerum et al discloses a liquid crystal device with a diffusing layer comprising segments which are driven to be diffusing in the off state and transparent in the on state. The light source is element 34, reflector 42, waveguide 30 and 46. Driving circuit is minimally shown, but can be discerned as element 28, and is described as turning on and off segments in column 3, lines 21-30. The waveguide is the same thickness as the cell, which is substantially the same thickness as two of the substrates as the thickness of the liquid crystal is 15 um in thickness. Lacking from the disclosure is the diffusing in the on state and transparent in the off state. Doane et al discloses such a device, teaching that it has the benefits of being haze free have improved electrical

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responses (col. 4, lines 3-5). Therefore it would have been obvious, in the device of Margerum et al, to employ the PDLC device of Doane et al for these benefits taught by Doane et al. Light passing through the electrodes will be somewhat absorbed, and therefore would be restricted.

The shading of sides where light is not incident was well known in the liquid crystal art for preventing stray light from entering the display, and would have been obvious for that reason.

3. Claims 9, 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman, U.S. Patent #5,708,487 in view of Doane et al, US Patent 5,240,636.

Bergman discloses a liquid crystal device with a diffusing layer comprising segments which are driven to be diffusing in the off state and transparent in the on state. The light source is element 3, reflector 4, the waveguide is the protruding section of the substrate 7. Driving circuit is discussed in column 4, lines 27-65. The electrodes are on both sides, so the waveguide is along a side with electrodes. Lacking from the disclosure is the diffusing in the on state and transparent in the off state. Doane et al discloses such a device, teaching that it has the benefits of being haze free and have improved electrical responses (col. 4, lines 3-5). Therefore it would have been obvious, in the device of Bergman, to employ the PDLC device of Doane et al for these benefits taught by Doane et al.

The shading of sides where light is not incident was well known in the liquid crystal art for preventing stray light from entering the display, and would have been obvious for that reason.

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4. Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman, U.S. Patent #5,708,487 in view of Doane et al, US Patent 5,240,636 as applied above, and further in view of Oe

Still lacking is the parabolic element. Parabolic reflectors were conventionally employed with the linear source lamps at the focus. This is taught by Oe, which explicitly makes such a statement in column 1, lines 16-22. Therefore, it would have been obvious, in the device of Bergman as modified by Doane et al, to employ a parabolic reflector with the linear source lamp at the focus as such was conventional at the time.

5. Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Margerum et al, U.S. Patent # 5,099,343 in view of Doane et al, US Patent 5,240,636 as applied above, and further in view of Oe

Still lacking is the parabolic element. Parabolic reflectors were conventionally employed with the linear source lamps at the focus. This is taught by Oe, which explicitly makes such a statement in column 1, lines 16-22. Therefore, it would have been obvious, in the device of

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Margerum as modified by Doane et al, to employ a parabolic reflector with the linear source lamp at the focus as such was conventional at the time.

Any assertion that something is well known is a taking of official notice.

Note: Any assertions that an element, practice or relationship was conventional has the incorporated motivations of the benefits of having established supply chains, well understood behavior and manufacturing methodologies.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, presuming that rejections over 35 USC 112 (if any) can be overcome.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's preliminary amendment of is acknowledged.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Parker whose telephone number is **(703) 305-6202**. The fax phone number for this Group is **(703) 308-7722**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or preceding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 308-0956**.

March 22, 2002


KENNETH ALLEN PARKER
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
GAU 2871